

REMARKS

Claims 1-57 were pending in the present application when the first Office Action was mailed (August 4, 2004). Claims 1 and 26 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 11, 12, 16-18, 20-23 and 33-36 have been amended solely to place these claims in independent form, without narrowing the scope of these claims. Claims 3-10, 13-15, 19, 24, 25, 27-32, 37 and 38 have been amended to change the dependencies of these claims. Claim 72 has been added. Accordingly, claims 2-25, 27-57 and 72 are currently pending.

In the August 4, 2004 Office Action, claims 39-57 were allowed and the remaining claims were either objected to or rejected. More specifically, the status of the application in light of this Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 39-57 are allowed, and claims 2, 11, 12, 16-18, 20-23, and 33-36 stand objected to, but were indicated to contain allowable subject matter; and

(B) The remaining claims (claims 1, 3-10, 13-15, 19, 24-32, 37, and 38) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in light of one or more of the following references: U.S. Patent No. 6,464,855 to Chadda et al. ("Chadda"); U.S. Patent No. 5,562,529 to Kishii et al. ("Kishii"); and published U.S. Application No. US2003/0178320 A1 to Liu et al. ("Liu").

A. Response to the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for his indication that claims 39-57 are allowed and that claims 2, 11, 12, 16-18, 20-23, and 33-36 would be allowed if rewritten to be in independent form. Claims 2, 11, 12, 16-18, 20-23, and 33-36 have been amended to be in independent form and accordingly should be allowed.

B. Response to the Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-10, 13-15, 19, 24-32, 37, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 on the basis of Chadda, Kishii, and/or Liu. Of these claims, claims 1 and 26 have been cancelled and accordingly, the Section 103 rejections of these claims are now moot. The remaining claims (claims 3-10, 13-15, 19, 24, 25, 27-32, 37 and 38) have been

amended to depend from claims indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejections of these claims should be withdrawn.

C. New Claim 72

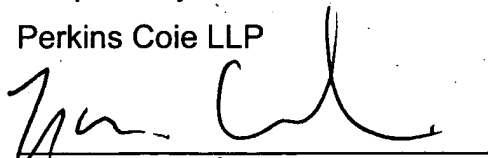
New claim 72 depends from claim 22 and includes, in addition to the features of claim 22, positioning first and second electrodes proximate to and spaced apart from the microelectronic substrate, disposing the electrolytic fluid in fluid communication with the microelectronic substrate and the two electrodes, and removing at least a portion of the conductive material by passing the electrical signal from the first electrode through the electrolytic liquid to the microelectronic substrate, and from the microelectronic substrate through the electrolytic liquid to the second electrode.

D. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3257.

Respectfully submitted,

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